

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES,

FEBRUARY 13, 1827.

Mr. REED, from the Committee on Public Lands, to which was referred the petition of Joseph Dunbar, Receiver of Public Money in the District West of Pearl river, State of Mississippi, made the following

REPORT :

That it appears to the satisfaction of the Committee, that when the said Joseph Dunbar entered upon the duties of his office, as such Receiver of Public Money, the books of his office were very much in arrear, and that he was instructed to cause them to be brought up with as little delay as possible. That he accordingly employed clerks to do a part of the work which was so in arrear, and the balance was done by himself, and in his own hand writing. He has been allowed at the Treasury Department, in the settlement of his accounts, fifteen hundred dollars paid for clerk hire in bringing up the arrearages of business in his office, which sum was actually paid to clerks employed by him : but for his own clerical labors he has received nothing, and one of the objects of the petition is to obtain compensation for those services. The Committee is of opinion that the justice of this claim is beyond doubt; and the only difficulty has been with the Committee to ascertain what the amount of compensation should be. The Chairman, therefore, addressed himself to the Commissioner of the General Land Office, who, in reply, communicated to the Committee a report made to his predecessor by A. Anderson, who had been directed to examine and report on the condition of the said office. The following is an extract from Mr. Anderson's report: "The books are now complete, and the work has been neatly and correctly executed. The same work could not have been done, had clerks been employed to perform the whole of it, for a sum less than \$2,000. The Receiver has been allowed a credit of \$1,500 paid to the clerks for the above labor : he also claims \$500, in addition to that sum, as a compensation for the work which he executed, and the necessary and general superintendence of the whole business. I examined the books page by page, and found that a considerable portion of the work was in the hand writing of Mr. Dunbar. In answer, therefore, to that part of the communication in relation to clerk hire, I feel it my duty to say, that the sum allowed appears to me, from my acquaintance with book-keeping of that description, to be less than reasonable, and less than I have known the same extent and style of work executed for." The Committee thinks, therefore, that \$500 is a fair and reasonable compensation for the extra services of the said Receiver in bringing up the arrearages of business in his office, and has instructed me to report a bill accordingly.

